

The Sydney Morning Herald.

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SUMMARY.

The peace plenipotentiaries have agreed to the terms retaining the railway connecting the Manchurian and Vladivostok lines.

Considerable differences exist regarding the Chinese Eastern railway south of Harbin, while Japan proposes to transfer to China, on Aug. 24, 12,000 Russian infantry and cavalry troops from the Amur to the El-shih-n-pu, Manchuria, but were repelled, losing 35 men.

Simultaneously a Russian force attacked another point, but was repelled, leaving 10 men killed and wounded on the field.

General Livenich reports that the Russians have occupied Kupungan, in Northern Manchuria.

A congress of peasants' unions is being held in Moscow. All parts of Russia are represented.

The congress adopted resolutions demanding universal suffrage for both sexes, and a reorganization of Parliament.

The whole peasant movement is described as a social and political upheaval, which is beyond the control of the authorities.

Rebels in Courland, Russia, sacked 22 principal buildings, destroyed all documents and the conscription lists, and took all the money.

Patients in Livonia have invaded many principal towns and cities in protest of the final test match of the present tour of the Australian cricketers ended in a draw.

England declared their second innings closed with six wickets for 261, and the Australians lost four wickets for 124—a minority win.

Printed thousand labourers, mostly men with rifles, are roving about the country.

The Channel Fleet has arrived at Youghal, Ireland, and had an enthusiastic welcome.

Special excursion trains will be run in Germany to enable the people to view the Channel Fleet.

Very cordial messages have been exchanged between Great Britain and France in regard to the recent visit of the French Minister of War to London.

The Sultan categorically refuses the French demands, and claims jurisdiction over Algerians settled in Morocco.

Labour riots have occurred in Sicily. The police fired on a mob, killing seven and wounding others.

Colin Campbell Stephen stated before the Lands Commission yesterday that he had paid £250.

Miss Willis was further examined. Her box, sent by the Sydney Safe Deposit, was produced in Court, but she declined to open it.

Mr. Justice Owen ordered that the box be opened in the name of the secretary of the commission.

At the extradition proceedings evidence was tendered to show that conspiracy under the Lands Act was a common misdemeanour.

The police have intimated that "Stephens is right, somewhere up the line," but they do not indicate the exact locality.

The matter was subsequently brought up in the Legislative Assembly, it being alleged that Stephens had been deprived of his liberty.

The Senate debated a motion for the election of a High Commissioner by the Federal Parliament.

A Bill to regulate insurance policies upon the lives of children was considered in committee.

The debate took place in the House of Representatives upon the election of Ministers and House Rule for Ireland.

The Legislative Assembly passed the District Courts Amendment Bill through committee.

The clause designed against blackmailers and receiving a ransom for costs in certain cases was agreed to by 30 votes to 29.

The Canterbury Park and Moordool clubs have that no strife exists with the bookmakers, and that neither of them intend to close.

The club's case is that if certain persons do not choose to pay the fees in force, others will have the opportunity of doing so.

The volcano on Savu, Samoa, is in eruption, and presents a grand spectacle.

The Full Court yesterday set aside the services of Mr. Justice Denham and another.

Mr. Reid makes an indignant denial of the charge levelled by Senator Playford that he had supported the coloured labour clause in the Postal Act.

He points out that Mr. Beakins and Sir William Lyne were in a Government which refused the clause, and two months later Mr. Carruthers said one difficulty was that Australia had too much land, but not enough labour and capital to work it.

Mr. Carruthers said he would "sooner go to the Queen's State than work for a master for five 'ho's' a day."

Mr. Ashton who also replied to the set-up, said he would be anxious to re-arrange lands he had held under improvement lease.

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The farmers and settlers who attended the conference laid their resolutions before the Premier yesterday.

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GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

WAGGA SHOW, AUGUST 22 AND 24.
WAGGA RACES, AUGUST 25 AND 26.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued to Wagga Wagga at Sydney, Albury, and intermediate stations, including Branch Lines, and also at Bathurst, Dubbo, Forbes, and intermediate stations (via Blayney), and at stations on Hume-Blayney and Grenfell Lines, commencing on MONDAY, AUGUST 21, and thereafter by trains time to arrive at Wagga Wagga up to 6.30 a.m. SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, available for return until SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1905.

CHEAP TICKETS AT SINGLE FARE FOR THE RETURN JOURNEY (minimum in First-class, and is second-class) will be issued to Wagga Wagga on THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, by the underneath SPECIAL TRAINS available for return by any train (except the Melbourne Express) under MONDAY, AUGUST 21.

From Hume and Intermediate stations, by SPECIAL TRAIN leaving Albury at 7.35 a.m.

From Lockhart and Intermediate stations to The Rock by SPECIAL TRAIN leaving Lockhart at 8.0 a.m.

From Hume and Intermediate stations by SPECIAL TRAIN leaving Harden at 7.45 a.m.

SPECIAL TRAINS will return from Wagga on THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, at 8.30 p.m. for Lockhart and Albury, and at 8.30 p.m. for Harden.

For further particulars apply to the Office of the Commissioner.

J. S. SPURWAY, Acting Secretary.

New South Wales Government Railways, Railway Commissioners' Office, Sydney, N.S.W., Tel. 14, 1905. TENDERED for the undersigned, the sum of £1,000, to be received at this Office until 12 o'clock on the date specified.

MONDAY, 21st AUGUST, 1905.

THE SUPPLY AND RECEPTION OF TRAVELLING GUITAR CONTOURS, Diving and Wharf Particulars, Existing Lines Office, Bridge-street, Sydney.

SPECIAL MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1905.

THE SUPPLY OF CANTILEVER AND STEEL BEARINGS for PUMPS, etc., Particulars, Existing Lines Office, Bridge-street, Sydney.

MONDAY, 21st OCTOBER, 1905.

THE SUPPLY OF TEN ELECTRIC ELEVATORS for New Central Railway Station, Sydney. Particulars, Electrical Engineer's Office, St. Philipps-street, Sydney.

The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order of the Commissioners,

J. S. SPURWAY, Acting Secretary.

AMUSEMENTS.

CRITERION THEATRE.

Lessons Mr. John F. Sheridan.

LADY CHANCE BUT ONE TO MEET. GIRL GIRL and his GIRL GIRL

LAST CHANCES. JOHN F. SHERIDAN, Comedian, JOHN F. SHERIDAN.

JIM CHEEZE. THE DOG-TRAINER EARL. "FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY FOR 20 QUID."

"WITH A BIG BANG." SATURDAY NEXT, AUGUST 19th. ANOTHER COMPLETE CHANGE.

THE MENS DOOLEY'S JOKE.

MR. BUDRIAN AS MR. DOOLEY.

TODAY, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, at 8 p.m. THE PLAYERS' DAY.

THE EARL AND THE GIRL.

Prices—5s. 2s. 1s. 6d. and 1s. Box Plan at Elvyn's Day Sales at White Rose. No early doors.

CRITERION THEATRE.

Under the direction of Messrs. Brough and Flemming.

Business Manager Allan Hamilton.

Advocacy Representative Claude H. Whittle.

SATURDAY, 26th AUGUST, 1905.

THE BROUGH-FLEMMING COMEDY SEASON.

FIRST PRODUCTION IN SYDNEY OF "BEAUTY AND THE BARGE!"

"BEAUTY AND THE BARGE."

"BEAUTY AND THE BARGE."

A farce in three acts by W. W. Jacobs and Leslie N. Parker (presented by arrangement with the Haymarket Theatre, London).

MR. BROOK as CAPTAIN JAMES BAILEY.

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THE BOX PLAN.

for the OPENING NIGHT ONLY will be on view at ELVYN'S on MONDAY NEXT, AUGUST 21, 1905. NEXT the plan for the FIRST SIX NIGHTS will be open.

DRESS CIRCLE and ORCHESTRA STALLS, 5s.

SPECIAL BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

THE OPENING NIGHT.

For the convenience of those patrons desirous of booking seats PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE BOX PLAN on Monday Next, it has been decided to open the Box Plan on Saturday, August 26th, at 1 p.m. SATURDAY NEXT. An extra charge of 2s 6d will be made for each seat and no tickets containing cheques will be issued to CLAUDE H. WHITTLE, Esq., Elvyn Co. and George Street, Sydney.

THE GREAT THURSTON.

Special Children's Toy Matinee, Saturday.

TUE. 22nd GREAT THURSTON.

Special Children's Toy Matinee, Saturday.

GRAND CONCERT.

Y.M.C.A. HALL, NEAR THURSTON, 8 p.m.

Price—5s. 2s. 1s. 6d. and 1s. Box Plan at Elvyn's Day Sales at White Rose. No early doors.

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Special Children's Toy Matinee, Saturday.

RANDWICK RACES.

TATTERSALL'S CLUB.

SIX EVENTS.

LARGE FIELDS.

TOMORROW, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19.

FIRST RACE, 1.15.

J. B. OLLIFFE, Secretary.

BONSBERRY PARK RACES.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21.

FLYING HANDICAP (1000), 22s. 4 furloins.

MOVIE HANDICAP (1000), 20s. 4 furloins.

3.5 HANDICAP, 20s., 4 furloins.

1.5 HANDICAP, 20s., 4 furloins.

ROBBINSHILL PARK HANDICAP (1000), 22s. 1 mile.

ENTRIES CLOSE THIS DAY, 10.30 a.m.

PRIZE, £100. T. H. BERNARDIN, Secy.

N. S. W. CASTLE RACES.

THE MAJOR'S CUP MEETING, SATURDAY and MONDAY NEXT, AUGUST 10 and 11.

Large Fields, Pleasant Trip.

Trains leave Paddington at 6.30 a.m. each day, arriving one hour before the first race, and returning after the last race.

J. GIRDLE, Secretary.

RACING CLUB.

THIS DAY, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1905.

Admission to Club Building, Paddington, Gentlemen £2. Ladies £1.20; Leger League, 2s. and Salmons, via Electric Trans-Vestor, Paddington, 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. Gates open at 10.30 a.m. through Fare, 2s.; from Blayney Gate, One Penny.

St. Imperial Arcades, 2s. E. PETERS, Secretary.

Pitt-street, Tel. 524.

WATERFALL FOUNDING HOME BALL, Paddington.

ELVYN'S HALL, 28th AUGUST, 1905.

Large Hall, Pleasant Trip.

Admission to Club Building, Paddington, Ladies £2.00; Men £1.50; Children, 50c.

Electric Trans-Vestor, Paddington, 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. Gates open at 10.30 a.m. through Fare, 2s.; from Blayney Gate, One Penny.

St. Imperial Arcades, 2s. E. PETERS, Secretary.

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ON THE LAND.

FARM AND STATION.

BULK HANDLING OF WHEAT.

THE FARMERS' BAG TAX.

RELATED AUSTRALIA.

Every year suggestions are made with a view to patching up the primitive methods of handling and selling wheat which obtain in Australia. The Farmers and Settlers' Conference this week passed a resolution intended to place the sale of wheat prior to the adoption of the f.a.c. standard on a business footing. Apparently it is hopeless to expect the Chamber of Commerce to fix the f.a.c. before a large quantity of the wheat has changed hands. Farmers want money when the harvest over, and they cannot all wait until the extremely imperfect and tedious system of fixing the standard for export has resulted in final decision. In the country the idea is entertained that the Chamber of Commerce would sacrifice its own interests in the hope of saving it to the farmers the only business of any consequence to the producers that it undertakes during the year. Like every-thing else that is carried on by commercial people in Sydney on behalf of producers and the trade, the fixing of f.a.c. wheat is always unsatisfactory, but no intelligent producer who knows Sydney expects any improvement. Producers, therefore, must make the best of the situation, and console themselves with the hope that some day even Sydney may take a forward stride, and the elevator system may be established. The resolution of the conference seeks to fix 60lb as standard for export under the Chamber of Commerce's scheme of fixing the f.a.c. The main object is to make the early transactions between farmer and agent final. The practice now is that the agent buys subject to reversion by his principal, which is a very dangerous one for the farmer. A fall in values has a surprising effect on quality. Selling on a rising market, a farmer may be surprised at the ease with which secondary quality goes through, but he is more surprised at the extremely critical attitude buyers assume when the market is weak. The farmer who sells subject to appraisal later on has nothing to gain, because the sample he sells on will bias him in his estimate, while he has all to lose if the market makes his sample being no guarantee against a reduction on the ground of inferior quality. A 60lb standard should be more than fair to the buyer, but the farmers could afford to fall in with that in order that business might be placed on a proper footing.

It is, of course, impossible to place the business on a just and equitable basis while bulk handling is delayed. As matters stand, the growers of Australia are very severely handicapped in competition with those of other wheat exporting countries of the world. As Mr. O'Neill, of Cowra, pointed out to the conference, the bag tax is in itself a crushing impost. This cannot properly be described as anything else than a heavy tax. Prior to the Revolution and the reign of terror in France taxes were imposed on certain articles of salt, and the people were compelled to purchase certain quantities of them in order that the revenue might be gained. Australian wheat-growers are in the same position to-day with respect to cornsacks. By neglecting to introduce the elevator system and carriage in bulk on the railways the Government practically compels the farmers of New South Wales to spend £175,000 in bags every season. The farmers do not receive one penny in return for the Parliamentary select committee appointed to inquire into the Murrumbidgee Northern Water Supply and Irrigation Bill. G. S. C. E. Martin, who owned 1,280 acres of freehold land above the site of the proposed Barron Jack dam, has offered to construct the dam and carry on the scheme at his own expense. After Mr. Bruce Smith, E.C., had examined witnessess, the bill was examined by Mr. the chairman of the Scottish Australian Investment Company, Ltd., and by Mr. Macausan, representing the Lower Murrumbidgee Locking League.

The committee adjourned until Wednesday next, when it is expected that the bearing of evidence will be concluded.

SETTLEMENT IN QUEENSLAND.

The following statement shows the area of lands selected under the Crown Lands Act for the year to August 15:

Homestead leases	72,665 acres
Settlement leases	372,417 acres
Conditional purchases	287,458 acres
Conditional leases	619,107 acres
Total	1,351,074 acres

The period includes 32 land office days, and the area made specially available since the beginning of the year is 1,278,599 acres. Received during the year, total 47,646 acres, and conditional purchases for original holdings represent 41 new settlers.

BARREN JACK IRRIGATION SCHEME.

Further evidence was taken yesterday by the Parliamentary select committee appointed to inquire into the Murrumbidgee Northern Water Supply and Irrigation Bill. G. S. C. E. Martin, who owned 1,280 acres of freehold land above the site of the proposed Barron Jack dam, has offered to construct the dam and carry on the scheme at his own expense. After Mr. Bruce Smith, E.C., had examined witnessess, the bill was examined by Mr. the chairman of the Scottish Australian Investment Company, Ltd., and by Mr. Macausan, representing the Lower Murrumbidgee Locking League.

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SELECTION AND MODES OF ACQUISITION.

Mr. R. Falkiner, delegate from the Mendo and Wallumbilla branch of the F. & S. Association of Queensland, read an interesting paper yesterday.—The area of the State is 437,828,000 acres. For the purpose of acquisition it is divided into three main districts—land agent, who supply information regarding land open for selection, etc., in their respective districts. Plans, maps, information concerning the rates, rents, size, etc., of the land to be selected, are given to the land agent, who then selects the land for the farmer. The land agent, who is generally the land agent in the principal centres, in areas up to 940 acres, is entitled to a rental of 12d per acre upwards, averaging 1d per acre, and the cost of the land agent is to be paid in full by the farmer. The land agent, who is generally the land agent, holds a court every month, and all applications are confirmed and permits to occupy given.

Several modes of selection are—
Agricultural homesteads—The land to be selected is to be used for agriculture, and the date of selection is to be determined by the land agent, who is to be paid in full by the farmer. The land agent, who is generally the land agent, holds a court every month, and all applications are confirmed and permits to occupy given.

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**THE COMMONWEALTH.
IN FEDERAL SESSION.**

THE SENATE.

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTERS.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

After the preliminary business was transacted in the Senate this afternoon a question of academic rather than practical interest came up for discussion, that of electing the High Commissioner by a ballot of full members both Houses sitting together. Senator Higgins moved in favour of it. He had tried to carry out his negotiations courteously, and counselled his successors to do the same. While he spoke moderately, he was careful to inform the House that the Federal capital question was one on which the public feeling in New South Wales ran high, and that it might at some time or other find audible expression. The Prime Minister, in reply, expressed some high aspirations. He was there to carry out the work of the Parliament, and would do so in every way, by criticism from the floor in path of duty. "Let his name in the bill which will be brought in to constitute the office." In any case, if the principle of election favoured by Senator Higgins were adopted there would be an immense amount of lobbying, and the best lobbyist would not necessarily be the best man to fill the position of High Commissioner. There was a little diversion when Senator Playford declared that, of course, no vote of the Senate could affect the position of the Government, but if it were carried it would take an indication of the state of confidence of that chamber. The Doak Administration was then adjourned, but it was brought back to a division. It would probably have been carried, solely in view of Senator Playford's declaration respecting no confidence. The numbers were there at that particular time to do it. After the second reading of the Life Assurance Companies Bill was moved by Senator Pearce. It passed through the House of Representatives last session, and was revived in the Senate a few weeks ago. Senator Pearce explained its provisions. It was a measure designed to limit the money payable under any life insurance policy on the death of a child. Its clause d'œuvre was found in the fact that it gave some people a right to claim a child's life in death. Accordingly, if an insured child died under the age of one year the total amount of money that could be paid to its parents or guardians, no matter how many might have been taken out, was £5. The sums were raised a little for every year of the child's life until it reached the age of 10 years. The bill was read the second time, and taken through committee as far as clause 1, where it came to a stop, as that clause deals with cases where parent or guardian may have a real interest in the life of a child as distinguished from its death. In such a case, it were to the interest of a parent to have the clause d'œuvre not to apply.

The Trans-Australian Railway Survey Bill was taken up after dinner. Senator Croft resuming the debate on its second reading. He exploded all the old arguments in favour of the line, and was followed by Senator Millen, who spoke at great length in opposition to it. He went into calculations to prove that £20,000 would not be enough to pay for the survey. The Minister for Defence supported the bill, on the ground that the railway would be a defensive one. When he concluded his speech the debate was adjourned until Wednesday next.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Fowler brought forward a motion in the House of Representatives in favour of electives. Ministraries, and made a good though perhaps rather academic speech in support of it. He evinced a good deal of research, and some knowledge of the subject. He was the first speaker, and the audience was up that while he did not hold that complete autonomy desirable, yet, if some form of local government were granted to Ireland, it would tend to do away with many causes of friction that now found their expression in agrarian outrages and allied forms of lawlessness. He dwelt on the wrongs of Ireland, and urged the adoption of Home Rule as the thing which would alleviate them. Mr. Wilks opposed the motion. One of his points was that the bill was unconstitutional, as it would, if it were carried, have to eat into the revenues and help to send the petition out. In the motion to the Imperial Government praying for the granting of self-government to Ireland. Mr. Wilks, however, had only some quarters of an hour in which to make his remarks, and obtained leave to conclude his speech a fortnight hence.

After the dinner adjournment the "grey-day" debate was begun. Mr. G. B. Edwards referred to the fact where two postal employees in New South Wales, who had been retired on the ground of their having reached the retiring age, were unable to obtain their pensions because of a disagreement between the State Government and that of the Commonwealth. He was informed by the Treasurer that the matter had been settled, and that the Minister had agreed that the proper procedure would be for the Government of New South Wales to offer the sum of £100 per annum for the capital. This finding has been put forward in New South Wales as the correct interpretation of the section named, but it has been quoted in Victoria, and it was laughed at now. It was laughed at by Victorian members. It was also laughed at by Sir William Lyne and Mr. Chapman. There was a good deal of interruption, interjections flew fast, and eventually the Speaker intervened. He said that the reason that Mr. Johnson had for the last quarter of an hour was to rise to speak, but had not intended to do so, as he had not intended to be interrupted. He then rose to speak, but had been interrupted by interjections. Mr. Johnson declared that popular feeling in New South Wales was so high that if a vote were taken there-to-morrow on the question of dissolving the union it would be almost unanimous in favour of a dissolution. Sir William Lyne interjected, "Oh, oh," and Mr. Hume Cook interjected, "You know that all blue." It may be all blue but, Mr. Hume Cook's point is that the union is not well settled there. His doubt that New South Wales will have to be more energetically in order to obtain her rights. In the debate it is admitted that she has rights with respect to this very question, but in practice she is told that her right is to defer to the wish of the Commonwealth Parliament in everything. If she will subordinate her desires to Victorian interests she will be well, but she dared to have a wish of her own, and that is what the speaker for. Mr. Johnson declared that the action of the Federal Government was calculated to bring about a state of perpetual deadlock.

Mr. Joseph Cook also touched on Federal capital matters. He referred to the correspondence between the Commonwealth and the State authorities, and did not confine himself to criticism. He suggested that as the High Court would probably decide to decline a hypothetical case, some arrangement might easily be made by which a friendly suit could be initiated on some such basis as this hypothesis. Dr. Liddell expressed the opinion that so far as New South Wales' interests were concerned in this Parliament, her boundary was situated too far south. The representation of the Riverina electorate and of Eden-Moorabbin were Victorian in their interests. Mr. Wilks observed that New South Wales' members would be justified in obstructing business until the capital site question was settled. He touched on the distribution of regulations, words providing that the regulations shall be confirmed by Parliament.

Wales had a legitimate grievance. While Mr. Wilks was castigating Ministers on their action on the Federal capital matter, Sir John Forrest made an intervention which was understood to be directed at the late Government and their failure to settle the question. Mr. Dugald Thomson rose when Mr. Wilks sat down, and pointed out that the late Government had inherited the Seat of Government Act, and had to negotiate with Mr. Carruthers on the basis provided by that bill. He had tried to carry out his negotiations courteously, and counselled his successors to do the same. While he spoke moderately, he was careful to inform the House that the Federal capital question was one on which the public feeling in New South Wales ran high, and that it might at some time or other find audible expression. The Prime Minister, in reply, expressed some high aspirations. He was there to carry out the work of the Parliament, and would do so in every way, by criticism from the floor in path of duty. "Let his name in the bill which will be brought in to constitute the office." In any case, if the principle of election favoured by Senator Higgins were adopted there would be an immense amount of lobbying, and the best lobbyist would not necessarily be the best man to fill the position of High Commissioner. There was a little diversion when Senator Playford declared that, of course, no vote of the Senate could affect the position of the Government, but if it were carried it would take an indication of the state of confidence of that chamber. The Doak Administration was then adjourned, but it was brought back to a division. It would probably have been carried, solely in view of Senator Playford's declaration respecting no confidence. The numbers were there at that particular time to do it. After the second reading of the Life Assurance Companies Bill was moved by Senator Pearce. It passed through the House of Representatives last session, and was revived in the Senate a few weeks ago. Senator Pearce explained its provisions. It was a measure designed to limit the money payable under any life insurance policy on the death of a child. Its clause d'œuvre was found in the fact that it gave some people a right to claim a child's life in death. Accordingly, if an insured child died under the age of one year the total amount of money that could be paid to its parents or guardians, no matter how many might have been taken out, was £5. The sums were raised a little for every year of the child's life until it reached the age of 10 years. The bill was read the second time, and taken through committee as far as clause 1, where it came to a stop, as that clause deals with cases where parent or guardian may have a real interest in the life of a child as distinguished from its death. In such a case, it were to the interest of a parent to have the clause d'œuvre not to apply.

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THE NEGOTIATIONS.

MANCHURIAN RAILWAY.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP ALLEGED.

RETURN TO CHINA.

AFTER PAYMENT OF JAPAN'S BILL.

LONDON, Aug. 17.

The Russian and Japanese plenipotentiaries at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, have agreed as to Russia's retention of the railway connecting the Trans-Siberian line and Vladivostok.

At yesterday's sitting of the conference considerable difference existed regarding the Chinese Eastern railway south of Harbin. Japan is resolved to transfer this railway to China when reimbursed her expenses of altering the gauge and effecting repairs. M. Witte contended yesterday that the railway was the private property of the Russo-Chinese Bank.

There are indications that Russia's intention to compensate the bank if it becomes necessary owing to its cessation.

FIGHTING IN MANCHURIA.

It is officially announced in Tokio that: "Early on August 14 a battalion of Russian infantry and two squadrons of cavalry, with eight field pieces and six quick-fires, attacked Er-shih-pu, north of Chang-tu, but were immediately repulsed, losing 35 men. We had one casualty."

"Simultaneously the Russians attacked a point eight miles north-west of Chang-tu, but were repulsed, leaving on the field ten men killed and wounded."

RUSSIANS IN KOREA.

General Linevitch reports that Russians have occupied Koompanzang, in Northern Korea after some fighting.

RUSSIAN UPHEAVAL.

PEASANTS BEYOND CONTROL.

LIBERAL CONSTITUTION DEMANDED.

LONDON, Aug. 17.

A congress of peasants' unions is being held at Moscow. Two hundred delegates are present, representing all parts of Russia.

The congress has adopted resolutions demanding universal suffrage for both sexes and a regular Parliament, with the power of initiating legislation, controlling the national finances, and supervising the administration.

Resolutions were also passed demanding the utilisation of monasteries lands for the purposes of peasant proprietorship, compulsory and free elementary education, compulsory religious instruction, and the secularisation of the schools.

The whole movement is described as a universal upheaval, which is beyond the control of the authorities.

NAVAL OFFICERS RETIRED.

Rear-Admirals Krieger and Vishnevetsky, of the Black Sea squadron, have been placed on the retired list. Captain Goussowitch, lately commanding the battleship Georg Pohodenets, recently in the hands of mutineers, has been retired with the rank of Rear-Admiral. Captain Baranowsky, of the transport Front, whose mutineers repeated, has been retired with the rank of captain.

LANDOWNERS KILLED.

LONDON, Aug. 16.

Peasants in the province of Courland, Russia, sacked 22 municipal buildings, destroyed the official documents and conscription lists, and took all money belonging to the State.

Peasants in Livonia have invaded many estates, and have killed three landowners.

A court-martial at Odessa has sentenced two young men and a girl for keeping explosives—the men to 20 years' and the girl to 10 years' penal servitude.

THE CANADIAN SNUB.

Sir William Lyne returned to-day from Canada, and when seen with reference to the declaration by the Ottawa correspondent of the London "Daily Chronicle" that the Dominion Government has to keep an agent in the United States to represent Canadian products exported there, he gave a short laugh.

He said that he was not surprised to hear that the Minister for Defence had not yet been re-called to pay to the same extent as the others. The Postmaster-General did not propose to make any alteration as requested by Mr. Johnson.

AUSTRALIAN NAVAL SQUADRON.

On the 2nd inst. Senator Matheson (W.A.) in the Senate asked a number of questions relating to the strength of the squadron now on the Australian station, and was informed that the description of the ships now comprising it was not yet in strict conformity with the terms of the Naval Agreement Act, which requires that instead of one first-class, two second-class, four third-class cruisers, and four sloops, there should be seven destroyers, and seven third-class cruisers, and no sloops on the station.

He added that sloops had upon examination been condemned as unfit for service, and absolutely useless. To-day Senator Matheson returned to the charge, and asked whether three of the second-class cruisers were not at Kataomba, Mildura, and Wallaroo.

He said that the type was "yes." In answer to a further question, the Minister for Defence had no official notification had yet been received that these vessels had been condemned by Admiralty. Sir John Millen, who had another motion on the same subject, asked if consideration had been given to the removal of the three. Senator Matheson also asked whether the Minister was still of opinion that it was the intention of the imperial authorities to give a stronger squadron than the Naval Agreement Act provided, and received an answer from the Minister for Defence that no previous opinion upon the subject had been given. All had said was that from confidential information received the Government had been condemned as unfit for service, and absolutely useless.

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MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

Thursday Evening.

A quiet tone prevailed on "Change-day," without much alteration in prices. New South Wales 5 per cent. (1892) sold at 90, which gives a fairly clear idea of the credit of the State at the present juncture. Prices of Bank shares and deposits were much the same as quoted earlier in the week. North Canterbury was 17, compared with previous recorded sales. South's Brewery was operated in at a reduction of 10%. Melbourne Trams and Mont de Piles' Tea, Fanner, and Fresh Food and Ice-cream. Silvertown Trams were practically broken up business. Melbourne Trams and W. H. Soul Pattinson, and Co. sold at late rates.

The following sales were reported on "Change": Forenoon: nil. Later: New South Wales 5 per cent. Funded Stock, due 1912, or later, 25%. Melbourne Tramway, 22a. Noon: nil. Later: W. H. Soul, Pattinson, and Co., 22a. Afternoon: North Coast Steam, 21s 6d. Nights, 5a.

Closing quotations were:—

Company.	Capital paid up.	Amount of Shares.	Share Capital Up.	Price.
			Last Div.	Days.
BANKS.				
Bank of Australia.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of New South Wales.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Tasmania.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Victoria.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Western Australia.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Queensland.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of New Zealand.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of South Africa.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Canada.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of America.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of France.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Germany.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Austria.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Italy.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Russia.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Brazil.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Argentina.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Chile.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Peru.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Uruguay.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Venezuela.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Mexico.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Central America.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Cuba.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Brazil.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Argentina.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Chile.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Uruguay.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Venezuela.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Mexico.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Central America.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Cuba.	1,000,000	100	100	100
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Bank of Central America.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Cuba.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Brazil.	1,000,000	100	100	100
Bank of Argentina.	1,0			

THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT.

THE SENATE.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTERS.)

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

The President took the chair at half-past 3 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

SENATOR KEATING, representing the Attorney-General, answered: Sir Josiah Symon (S.A.), said that the two claims against the Commonwealth in regard to land adjacent to Large Fort in South Australia were now subject to arbitration before the Arbitrators appointed by Parliament in that State. He could give any information concerning them. A Bill to amend the Public Purposes Acquisition Act was being prepared, and would be given expedition.

SENATOR KEATING, representing the Postmaster-General, in answer to Senator Stewart (Q.), said that copies of the contract between the Government and the Orient Company for the carriage of mails were being prepared, and would be laid before Parliament when completed.

SENATOR KEATING, representing the Minister for Home Affairs, said no report had been made to the probable cost of the Transaustralian railway, and therefore had not been published by the Government.

UNOPPOSED MOTIONS.

Leave was given to Senator Sir Josiah Symon (S.A.) to bring in a bill to amend the Mails Act.

On the motion of Senator Smith (W.A.), it was ordered that there be laid on the table a copy of the communication addressed to the Minister for External Affairs, and signed by Mr. Higgins (Vic.), for the consideration of the British, New Guinea, relating to the imprisonment, escape, and instructions respecting the capture of one O'Brien, also copies of all other documents and papers in connection therewith.

It was also ordered, on the motion of the same member, that a return be laid on the table showing the number of indented coloured labourers engaged for various Australian ports, and those were referred to their homes during 1904, each nationality being given separately.

ELLECTIVE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

SENATOR HIGGINS (Q.) moved: "That, in the opinion of the Senate, the High Commissioner for the Commonwealth should be appointed by an exhaustive ballot at a joint meeting of the Senate and the House of Representatives." As an addendum to the motion he said: "That this resolution be referred to the Standing Committee for its concurrence." He said it would be preferable to select a man in the way proposed that he should be appointed in the ordinary way by the Ministers, who might be selected in the list in the opinion of Parliament for the position.

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE opposed the motion. The one straightforward course to adopt, he said, was to have a ballot, and the name of the man whom it was desired to choose in the same way. If this motion were carried, the election would be by ballot, which would, of course, be secret, and no one would be able to know the result. We wanted to have an infinite amount of lobbying, and it was more than probable that the best man would not be chosen, for the reason that he would be the last to leave his seat.

SENATOR MILLER (N.S.W.) argued that it would be derogatory to Parliament to make such an appointment. He did not see how that Government could single out any one man for such a position, as it was the work of the House to do it.

SENATOR MATHERSON (W.A.) supported the motion.

SENATOR TRINWELL (Vic.) submitted that an application for the name of a man made by the Executive, if it were made by Parliament, Ministers would have no control over the High Commissioner.

The debate was adjourned for a fortnight.

he put in a monetary form he believed that the people of Australia would show themselves to some action. There was an emergency for radical reform in our methods. Parliament must elect its Ministers. It was no new proposal.

MR. CROUCH (Vic.): They are not Ministers of Parliament at all.

MR. FOWLER: I look that they were de facto servants of Parliament, and he thought they ought to be appointed by the Parliament to carry out the functions of the service. Ministers were elected by Parliament in this land. There should, however, be some means of removing an elected Minister.

MR. CROUCH: All that was right in Switzerland, and the Swiss had received the popular will. The referendum was used.

MR. FOWLER: No member of the Swiss Parliament could bring down a motion without being submitted by the Cabinet first.

Mr. CROUCH: The only provision in connection with a very unusual piece of legislation that ultimately passed the Parliament was the Public Purposes Acquisition Act. At present it was not a machine by which the will of the people were carried into effect.

MR. CROUCH: The clause, as amended, was agreed to.

Clause 20 in the "Actions of tort in the Supreme Court may be referred to District Court" were postponed.

Clause 32, which dealt with costs when more than £50 was recovered, and M. Judge was to be paid, was withdrawn at the instance of the Attorney-General.

Clause 45 was amended by the Attorney-General to provide that where the amount of a judgment did not exceed £50 the Judge was to receive £5 per cent. of the sum and costs could be paid by instalments.

In accordance with a promise given by the Attorney-General during the second reading of the bill, clause 60, dealing with the taxation of insurance, was withdrawn.

Clause 64, which gave the District Court Judges, or any three of them, power to make general rules for regulating the practice of the District Courts.

MR. MAHONY said the District Court was to be the court of first instance in trials numbered nearly 500. When he objected that no one had an opportunity of seeing the rules before they became law, he asked that an amendment be inserted, providing that the rules be laid in the public prints for a certain time before they became law.

MR. CRICK moved an amendment to provide that new rules should not have the force of law until they were laid on the table of the House for one month.

The amendment was agreed to.

THE MORNING GALLOPS.

The outer half of Randwick course proper was at the disposal of trainers yesterday morning, but it was not utilised.

On clause 35, which dealt with the costs when more than £50 was recovered, and M. Judge was to be paid, was withdrawn at the instance of the Attorney-General.

On clause 45, which gave the District Court Judges, or any three of them, power to make general rules for regulating the practice of the District Courts.

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The amendment was agreed to.

The postponed clauses were then considered on the division being taken, clause 25, which provides that actions of tort in the Supreme Court may be referred to the District Court.

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MR. CRICK moved an amendment to provide that new rules should not have the force of law until they were laid on the table of the House for one month.

The amendment was agreed to, and the bill reported with amendments.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House at 9.40 p.m. adjourned until Tuesday next at 6.30 p.m.

NEW NOTICES.

Mr. HILLIARD moved for papers in connection with the establishment of a mint at Melbourne.

Mr. ASHON to move: "That the Diocese of Goulburn Church Land Bill be referred to a select committee for consideration and report."

DISTRICT COURTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The House went into committee to further consider this bill.

clause 4. "Judges appointed for New South Wales.

MR. WILKES (N.S.W.) was against the motion. He did not believe that the majority of members had "observed with interest the recent legislation in Ireland regarding Ireland. Members who thought the House had been responsible for Ireland's troubles had said nothing about the history of the Irish Parliament.

The debate was adjourned for a fortnight.

"GRIEVANCE DAY."

On the question: "That the Speaker do now issue a Grievance Day," Mr. ASHON moved.

MR. CROUCH (Vic.) brought up the matter of Mr. John Plummer's appointment by the Government as writer to supply newspapers in England with articles dealing with the life of the Queen. He said the bill would be introduced, and would be referred to the House of Commons.

MR. G. B. EDWARDS made a reference to the bill, and withdrew his objection.

MR. COHEN urged the Attorney-General to withdraw the whole of the part of the bill relating to equitable jurisdiction.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL: It will do no harm.

MR. COHEN urged the Attorney-General to omit this part of the bill. The same expense would be incurred by the Judge of the District Court in the jurisdiction of the Court in the appointment of trustees or the making of investment orders. It would be a very dangerous thing to give equitable jurisdiction to the Courts, because, if the training of the Judges did not qualify them to conduct such proceedings.

MR. COHEN's letter to the Premier, dated July 14, 1905, is as follows: "I have the honour to forward herewith some of the press notices appearing this week in the leading newspapers in England, concerning your Excellency's appointment as writer to supply newspapers in England with articles dealing with the life of the Queen. I am enclosing a copy of the bill, and would like to have your views.

MR. COHEN urged the Attorney-General to withdraw the whole of the part of the bill relating to equitable jurisdiction.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL: It will do no harm.

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Mining Intelligence.

A large number of sales, in most instances in larger rates, took place on "Change yesterday." Broken Hill shares easily led the way, both in the number of transactions and in the price paid. The highest price was \$100 per share, the lowest \$50 per share, the average being \$75 per share. The price of gold has increased during the last month, rising from \$65 per ounce to the figure paid on the previous day, to \$70 per ounce. Other substantial advances in this division were in North Queensland, Copper Hill and Central Australia. Gold prices have risen a shade easier, O. K. shares being reported down to \$12 per share. Local gold was quiet and steady, the only change being a further slight drop in Mount Isa. The price of silver in Central Australia was the sharpest. In South Central and Victoria, the Eastern Block, contg. Other business in this section was practically at late rates.

Sydney Stock Exchange.—The closing quotations were:

Bought. Dollars.

Gold, Cossack (contg.) 11 1/2

Wolfe's Gold Mine 11 1/2

Wolfe's Gold Mine (contg.) 11 1/2

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